

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein said apparatus is adapted to determine the viscosimetric properties of the test substance.
3. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein said optical measurement is a spectroscopic analysis.
4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said spectroscopic analysis is an infrared spectroscopic analysis.
5. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the light passage is formed by a segment transmissive to infrared light and having a contour which terminates flush with a surface of a plate that is oriented facing the intervening space.
6. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the ~~light passage comprises an wear resistant~~ light transmissive body is selected from the group consisting of diamond, ZnSe and germanium [[,]] .

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~according to claim 6~~ for determining rheological properties of a test substance, said apparatus comprising two plates which are spaced apart from each other and are movable relative to each other and which delimit an intervening space for receiving the test substance, said apparatus further comprising a light passage that does not alter said intervening space, said light passage facilitating optical measurement of the test substance, whereby an optical analysis of the test substance can be carried out simultaneously with the determination of rheological properties, wherein said the light passage comprises a light transmissive body ~~has~~ having a light-introduction surface on a segment opposite the intervening space, said light-introduction surface being inclined in accordance with a desired light entry angle relative to the plane of the plate.

8. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~4~~ 7, wherein the apparatus further comprises a second light passage on the same plate as the first light passage.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ for determining rheological properties of a test substance, said apparatus comprising two plates which are spaced apart from each other and are movable relative to each other and which delimit an intervening space for receiving the test substance, said apparatus further comprising a light passage that does not alter said intervening space, said light passage facilitating optical measurement of the test substance, whereby an optical analysis of the test substance can be carried out simultaneously with the determination of rheological properties, wherein the second plate has a reflection surface positioned to reflect a light beam entering the intervening space through the light passage.

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 9, wherein said reflection surface is an infrared reflective surface, and said light be is an infrared beam.

11. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein at least one of the plates comprises means for heating or cooling in order to obtain a desired temperature.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein one of the plates is at least partially conical.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the plates are spaced apart from each other by an adjustable distance.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the second plate is movably driven.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ for determining rheological properties of a test substance, said apparatus comprising two plates which are spaced apart from each other and are movable relative to each other and which delimit an intervening space for receiving the test substance, said apparatus further comprising a light passage that does not alter said intervening space, said light passage facilitating optical measurement of the test substance, whereby an optical analysis of the test substance can be carried out simultaneously with the determination of rheological properties, wherein the optical measurement is an attenuated total reflection (ATR) measurement that can be carried out by the apparatus.

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~ for determining rheological properties of a test substance, said apparatus comprising two plates which are spaced apart from each other and are movable relative to each other and which delimit an intervening space for receiving the test substance, said apparatus further comprising a light passage that does not alter said intervening space, said light passage facilitating optical measurement of the test substance, whereby an optical analysis of the test substance can be carried out simultaneously with the determination of rheological properties, wherein the light passage comprises a light transmissive body with a plurality of light reflection surfaces.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the apparatus can be selectively used to carry out an attenuated total reflection (ATR) measurement or an infrared spectroscopic measurement.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein the apparatus includes a control unit for recording measured values obtained by the rheological measurement and the optical measurement and evaluating the measured values by comparison to reference values.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said reference values represent viscosity values of known substances.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein said two plates are rotatable relative to each other.

21. (New) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the second plate has a reflection surface positioned to reflect a light beam entering the intervening space through the light passage.